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Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/635,373	ADKISSON ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Cynthia Britt	2117	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/25/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

CBritt
 CYNTHIA BRITT
 PRIMARY EXAMINER
 9-14-07

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0002] This application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/635371, filed 08/06/03 entitled COVERAGE CIRCUIT FOR PERFORMANCE COUNTER (Docket No. 200208996-1 U. S. Publication 2004/0237004); U.S. Patent No. 7275191 ~~Application Serial No. filed~~ entitled COVERAGE DECODER CIRCUIT FOR PERFORMANCE COUNTER (Docket No. 200208997-1); U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/635103, filed 08/06/2003 entitled DATA SELECTION CIRCUIT FOR PERFORMANCE COUNTER (Docket No. 200209000-1 U. S. Publication 2004/0236994); U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/635079, filed 08/06/2003 entitled ZEROING CIRCUIT FOR PERFORMANCE COUNTER (Docket No. 200209001-1 U. S. Publication 2004/0236992); U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/635083, filed 08/06/2003 entitled GENERAL PURPOSE PERFORMANCE COUNTER (Docket No. 200208999-2 U. S. Publication 2004/0236993); and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/635369, filed 08/06/2003 entitled INCREMENT/DECREMENT CIRCUIT FOR

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PERFORMANCE COUNTER (Docket No. 200208998-1 U. S. Publication 2004/0237003), all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[0003] Related subject matter disclosed in the following commonly owned co-pending U. S. Patents ~~patent applications~~: (i) U. S. Patent No. 7146538, A BUS INTERFACE MODULE, ~~filed March 28, 2003; Application No. 10/402,092~~; and (ii) U. S. Patent No. 7188277 AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT, ~~filed March 28, 2003; Application No. 10/402,034~~, is hereby incorporated by reference.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present application pertains to a match circuit for implementation in a general purpose performance counter connected to a bus carrying debug data.

The instant application (claim 1 as representative of the independent claims) claims features such as "A match Circuit for implementation in a general purpose performance counter ("GPPC") connected to a bus carrying debug data, the match circuit comprising logic for activating a match signal when a selected N-bit portion of the debug data matches an N-bit threshold for all bits selected by an N-bit match mask ("mmask")." The prior arts of record (JP403216727A as an example of the prior arts) teach "The coincidence of data A_i and B_i of two sequences whose data length in n-bits is compared in a coincidence circuit for respective bits. Then, a comparison result is informed to a decoder. Since '0' is outputted, if dissidence occurs even by one bit for respective groups of data in the decoder, only one n-bit comparator is required. Then,

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the group of data whose priority is high is selected when n-bits are compared by functioning priority for respective bits. Thus, the scale of the gate is reduced and the detection time can be shortened." However, the prior arts fail to teach "A match Circuit for implementation in a general purpose performance counter ("GPPC") connected to a bus carrying debug data, the match circuit comprising logic for activating a match signal when a selected N-bit portion of the debug data matches an N-bit threshold for all bits selected by an N-bit match mask ("mmask")."

As such, modification of the prior art of record can only be motivated by hindsight reasoning, or by changing the intended use and function of the prior art themselves. Therefore, it is not clear that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have made the necessary modifications to the prior art of record to encompass the limitations set forth in the present application. Moreover, none of the prior arts of record, taken either alone or in combination, anticipate nor render obvious the claimed inventions. Hence, claims 1-25 are allowable over the prior arts of record.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia Britt whose telephone number is 571-272-3815.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis-Jacques can be reached on 571-272-6962. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Cynthia Britt
9-14-07
CYNTHIA BRITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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Art Unit 2117